

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A thermal ink which comprises a colour former, a colour developer, a sensitizer, ~~characterized in that and at least one pigment;~~ the colour former ~~comprises~~ comprising 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilino-fluoran; the colour developer ~~comprises~~ comprising dimethyl terephthalate; ~~and that the ink also comprises at least one pigment~~ bisphenol A; and the sensitizer comprising dimethyl terephthalate.

2. (Original) A thermal ink according to claim 1, in which 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilino-fluoran is the only colour former present, and bisphenol A is the only colour developer present.

3. (Currently Amended) A thermal ink according to ~~either claim 1 or claim 2,~~ which is free of wax.

4. (Currently Amended) A thermal ink according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, in which the pigment is calcined clay, precipitated calcium carbonate, and/or silica.

5. (Currently Amended) A thermal ink according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, in which the particle size of solids present in the ink is less than 1.5 $\mu$ .

6. (Original) A thermal ink according to claim 5, in which the particle size of solids present in the ink is less than 10 $\mu$ .

7. (Currently Amended) A thermal ink according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, which also comprises polyvinyl alcohol.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a thermal ink ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 7, which comprises grinding together the colour former and DMT; in a~~

~~separate operation, grinding together the colour developer and DMT; comprising a colour former, a colour developer, a sensitizer, and at least one pigment, the colour former comprising 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilinofluoran, the colour developer comprising bisphenol A, and the sensitizer comprising dimethyl terephthalate; which method comprises: grinding together the colour former and dimethyl terephthalate; in a separate operation, grinding together the colour developer and dimethyl terephthalate; and subsequently blending together said ground products together with a pigment.~~

Delete claims 9 and 10 in their entirety.